Talks with Militant outfits in Assam

259. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: SHfli MAHENDRA PRASAD: SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any talks have been initiated with ULFA and other militant outfits in Assam after the installation of the new Government in Assam and at the Centre; and

(b) if so, what progress has so far been made in the direction and what steps have been taken by Government in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b) The Chief Minister, Assam has made an offer to release ULFA detenus except those facing charges of heinous crimes. He has called upon ULFA to give up arms and come 'forward for negotiation.

Control and Command of Kashmirand Punjab Militants Training Campsby Pakistan Army

260. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANTBHANDARE:
SHRISURESHPACHOURI:
SHRIKAPILVERMA:
'KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA:
SHRIMATI VEEN A VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent press reports to the effect that Pakistani Army has taken over direct control and command of Kashmir and Punjab militants training camps; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to dissuade Pakistan from such direct interference in Indias affairs by involvement in secessionists and militants activities?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Government have seen press reports to the effect that the Pakistani Army had taken direct control over training camps set up in POK for Kashmiri militants.

(b) It has been conveyed to Pakistan in clear and categorical terms that its support to terrorism is a violation » of the Simla Agreement and the internationally accepted norms of interstate conduct. We shall continue to avail our selves of every possible opportunity to drive home this point.

Militant activities in Punjab and Kashmir

261. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any marked spurt in militant activities in Punjab and Kashmir since the dissolution of the 9th Lok Sabha;

(b) if so, the comparative figures of the incidents o>f militant killings, kidnappings, extortions and robberies during the above period and the corresponding period preceding the Lok Sabha dissolution; and

(c) the steps taken to curb and prevent such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME1 AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b) A statement showing the incidence of murder/ shootout/kidnappings etc. is enclosed.

(c) The situation in the two States is constantly under review. The State Governments concerned have taken adequate security and other measures to deal with the situation. Central assistance by way of deployment of para-military forces, etc. has also been extended as and when required.